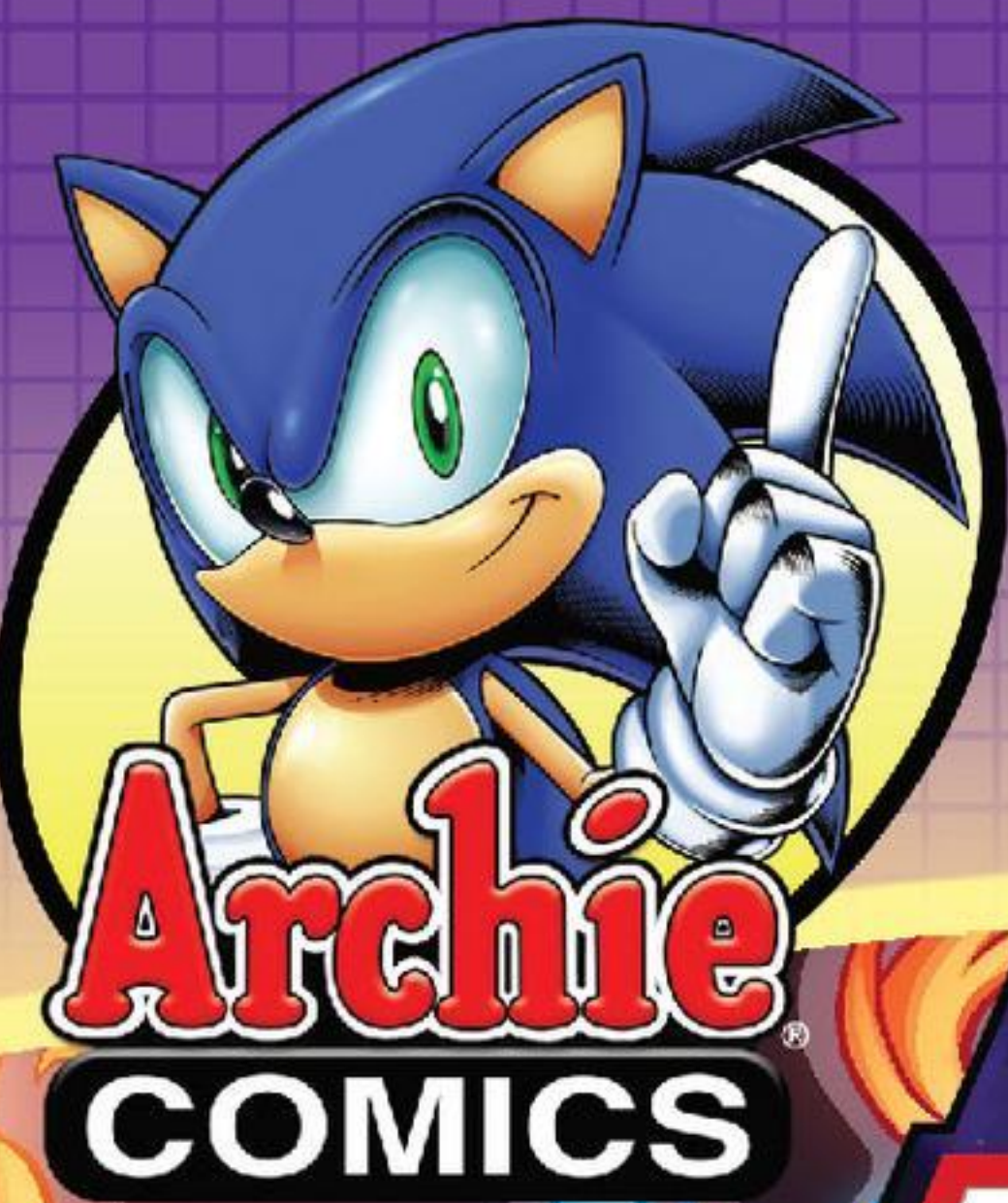




SECRET FREEDOM
PART 4 OF 4

ISSUE

44

SEGA®

SONIC UNIVERSE™



ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Tracy
Vodley
- Jim Amash
- Steve D.

Welcome to the planet Mobius -- a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Silver the Hedgehog and the Secret Freedom Fighters race against time to save the unwitting citizens of New Mobotropolis from evil!

SONIC UNIVERSETM

PREVIOUSLY...

The city of New Mobotropolis is under SIEGE!

Sonic the Hedgehog's home city continues to reel following the devastating attacks of Dr. Eggman. These attacks have led to the destruction of the city's heroes, the Freedom Fighters.

The city has also been attacked from within, as the evil Wizard Ixis Naugus and his apprentice Geoffrey St. John have usurped the crown of Acorn, using their dark magic to turn public opinion in their favor. But in the shadows a new team of Secret Freedom Fighters have formed to put an end to Naugus's rule!

After battling both Geoffrey and Naugus, the Secret Freedom Fighters found themselves evenly matched with these forces of evil. Evenly matched, that is, until Silver was able to convince team leader Elias Acorn that they might be able to reason with Geoffrey St. John, instead of battling him head on.

Silver's gamble paid off, and Geoffrey revealed to our heroes the true, terrifying depths of Naugus's plan -- to take control of the Council of Acorns' minds as they ratify the Kingdom's new constitution! If Naugus was able to control the law of the land, he would be unstoppable.

**The Secret Freedom
Fighters are NOT about
to let that happen...**



WHO'S WHO



**SILVER
THE HEDGEHOG**
TIME TRAVELER
--CALL SIGN "ACE"



ELIAS ACORN
DEPOSED KING
--CALL SIGN "KING"



KING NAUGUS
CONNIVING IXIS
WIZARD



**GEOFFREY
ST. JOHN**
TRAITOR AND
IXIS APPRENTICE

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UNSUNG HEROES PART FOUR:

FIGHT the POWER!

IAN FLYNN : writer / TRACY YARDLEY! : pencils / JIM AMASH : inks / JACK MORELLI : letters / STEVE DOWNER : colors
YARDLEY!, AMASH & HERMS : cover / VINCENT LOVALLO : Assistant Editor / PAUL KAMINSKI : Editor/Executive Director of Editorial
VICTOR GORELICK : Editor-in-Chief / MIKE PELLERITO : President / Thanks to ANTHONY GACCIONE & CINDY CHAU at Sega Licensing

DEEP UNDER NEW
MOBOTROPOLIS...

KING IXIS
NAUGUS
CONNIVING
IXIS
WIZARD

Ahhhh...
EVERYTHING
IS PROCEEDING
PERFECTLY!

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES,
THE ELDRITCH RITES WILL
BE COMPLETE! THE MINDS
OF THE COUNCIL OF
ACORN WILL BE BOUND
TO MY WILL, AND THE
ORDER OF IXIS WILL
RISE ANEW!

SURE.

SPLENDID.

GEOFFREY
ST. JOHN
IXIS
APPRENTICE



MEANWHILE, DIRECTLY
ABOVE-- THE ROYAL
MILITARY HQ...



NO LUCK,
CHARLES?

I'M AFRAID
NOT, ROSE-
MARY.

THE LOCK'S
BUSTED.



OF COURSE, IF
NICOLE WERE STILL
HERE, WE WOULDN'T
HAVE THIS
PROBLEM!

DON'T GET YOUR MUSTACHE
IN A KNOT, CHUCK. THE
VOTE TO EXILE WAS
UNANIMOUS.

EVEN IF
MOST OF US
DIDN'T
LIKE IT...



WHAT'S WRONG,
COUNCILOR DYLAN?

heh heh--
ah, WELL... IT
SEEMS WE
ARE LOCKED
OUT OF THE
BUILDING.



WE CAN'T REALLY
RATIFY THE NEW
CONSTITUTION IF
WE CAN'T GET
INSIDE, Y'KNOW?

WHICH KEEPS YOU
OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
C'MON, LARRY, KEEP
WORKING YOUR
BAD LUCK IN THEIR
FAVOR... OR
MINE. OR
...GAH!

LARRY LYNX
CALL SIGN:
JOKER
SUPER-JINX

"THE REST OF THE TEAM BETTER KICK NAUGUS'S BUTT, THOUGH. THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN MY LUCK WILL CHANGE!"



YOU'RE *CERTAIN* YOU FOUND NOTHING OF THE FOOLS WHO TRIED TO SPY ON ME?*

YES, SIR! CERTAIN!

*SU#42-43!



KEEP A WEATHER EYE ON THE DOOR, THEN. THIS INCANTATION IS TOO COMPLEX AND TAXING TO REPEAT. I CANNOT BE INTERRUPTED AT THIS DELICATE--



YOU WERE SAYING?



HISSSS!!

YOU'LL PAY FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE!

SHARD - CALL SIGN:
JACK -- REFORMED
METAL
SONIC

SILVER - CALL SIGN:
ACE -- TELEKINETIC

APPRENTICE!
MY WAND--
NOW!

LITTLE
BUSY AT THE
MOMENT!

BIG
TALK--

--FOR A
GUY WHO'S
RETREAT-
ING!

LEETA -
CALL SIGN:
QUEEN OF DIAMONDS
WOLF PACK TWIN.

LYCO -
CALL SIGN: QUEEN
OF HEARTS
YOU'RE NOT SEEING
DOUBLE

DEET!

DEET!

ELIAS -
CALL SIGN: KING
DETHRONED KING
ACORN

I DON'T KNOW
WHERE THE DIRECTOR
GOT ALL OF THESE
EXPLOSIVES, BUT
RIGHT NOW, I
DON'T CARE!



I DO NOT NEED THE
CHAOS EMERALD TO
DEFEAT YOU! MY ELEMENTAL
SORCERY IS
UNSURPASSED!

MAN, ARE YOU
IN FOR A RUDE
AWAKENING!

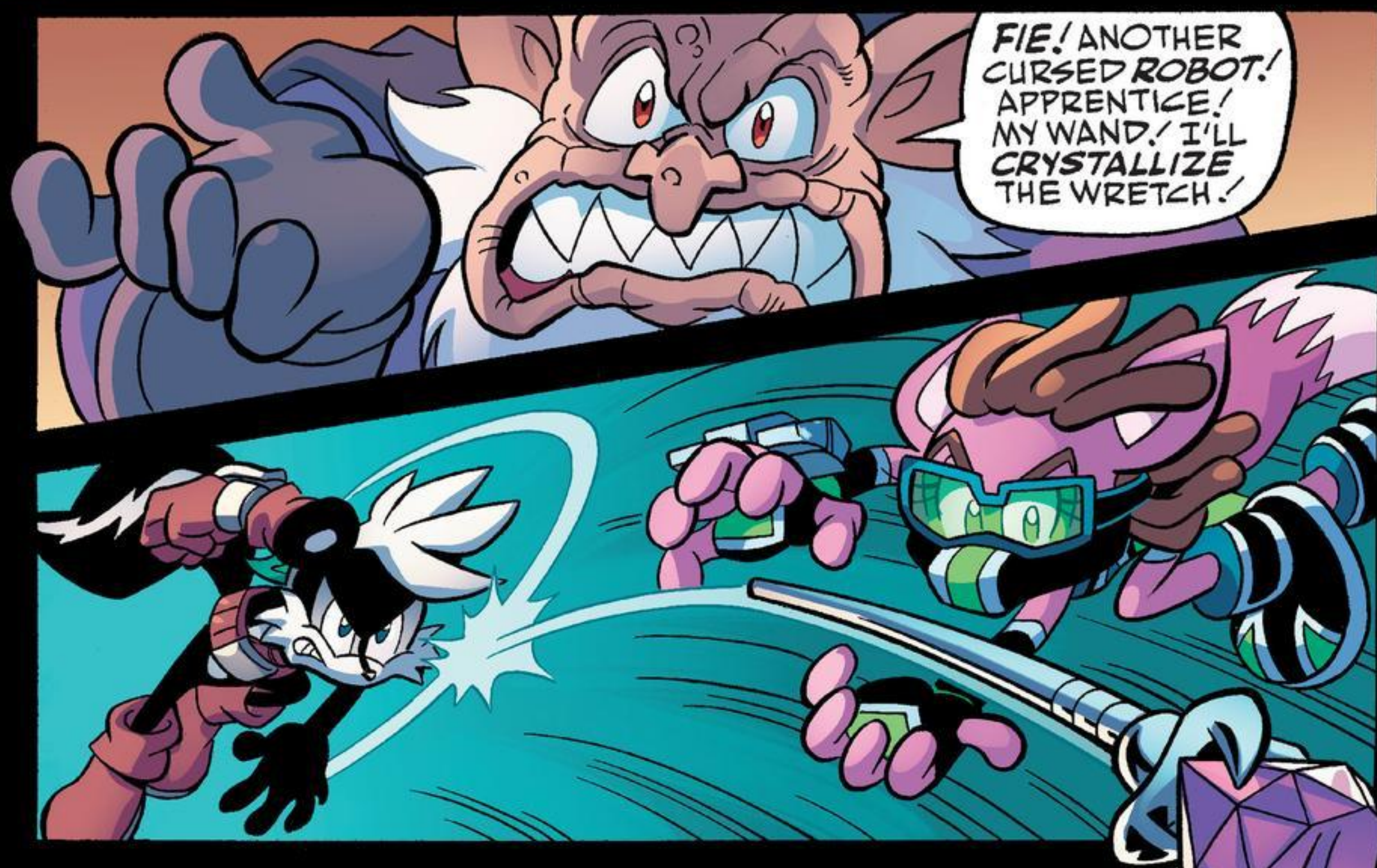
NICE
DISTRACTION,
ACE!



I'LL RIP
THE VERY
AIR FROM
YOUR
LUNGS!



HAHAHA!
THAT'D
WORK--
--IF I HAD
LUNGS!



FIE! ANOTHER
CURSED ROBOT!
APPRENTICE!
MY WAND! I'LL
CRYSTALLIZE
THE WRETCH!











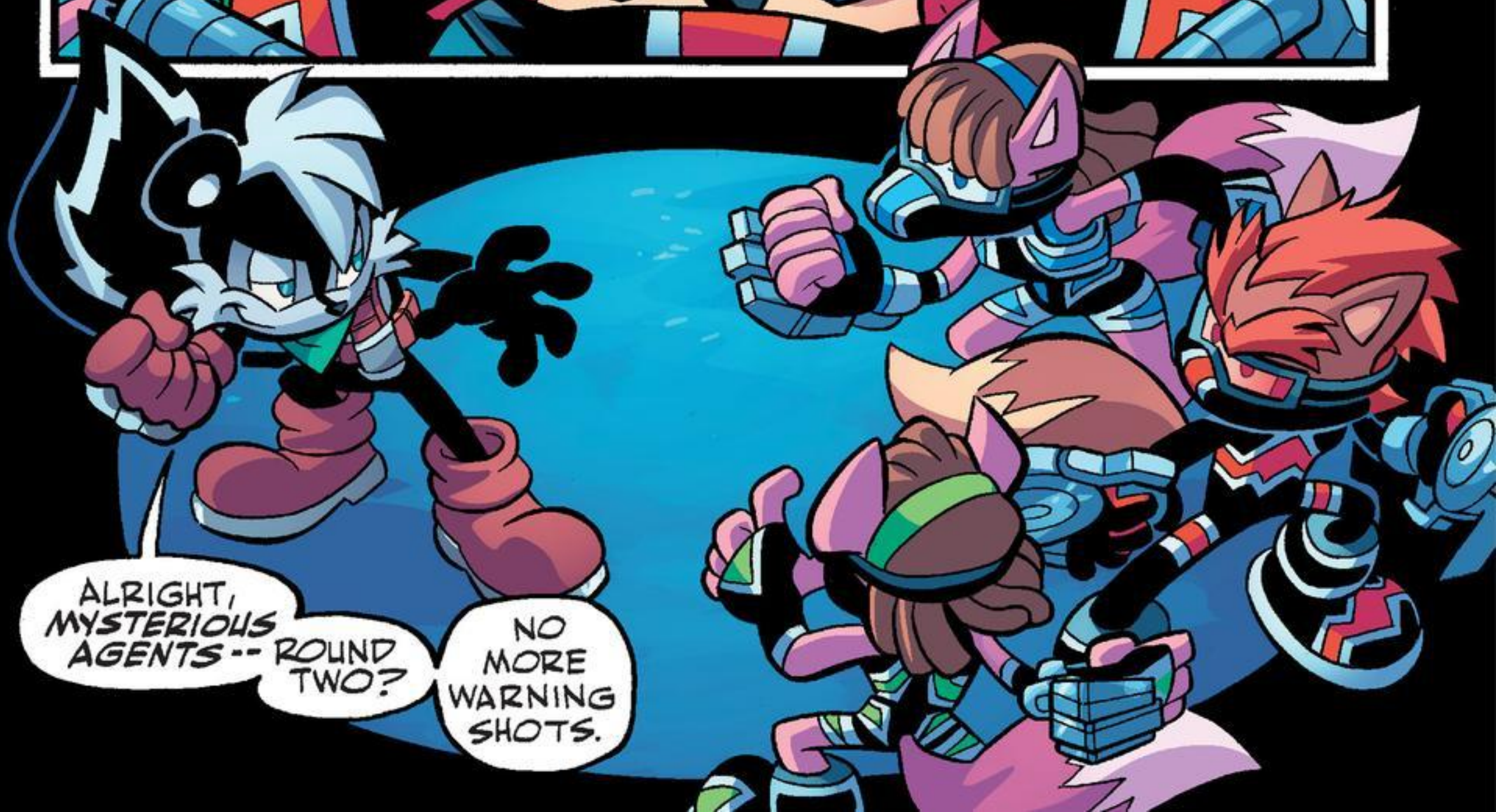
AGENT "KING," huh?
GOING FOR
"SO OBVIOUS
IT'S OVER-
LOOKED?"

THERE WAS A TIME
I HAD YOU WRAPPED
AROUND MY LITTLE
FINGER. POOR,
NAIVE LITTLE
PRINCE!

I'VE COME
A LONG WAY
SINCE
THEN.



YEAH.
YOU
HAVE.



ALRIGHT,
MYSTERIOUS
AGENTS -- ROUND
TWO?

NO
MORE
WARNING
SHOTS.



FOUND IT!

IT HAD FALLEN
BEHIND YOUR
WRITING DESK,
PENELOPE!



WELL, THAT'S
EMBARRASSING.
THANK YOU, CREAM
AND CHEESE, FOR
VOLUNTEERING
TO HELP LOOK
FOR IT!

WE'RE ON TEAM
FREEDOM--HELPING
PEOPLE IS WHAT WE
DO. THE ENVELOPE
IS ADDRESSED TO
MRS. PROWER,
THOUGH.

Oh! HAHA! Ahh...
I MUST'VE LEFT
IT AT YOUR HOUSE
WHEN WE HAD
DINNER THE
OTHER
NIGHT.

MY
APOLOGIES.



AT LEAST IT'S
BEEN FOUND.

NOW ALL WE NEED
TO DO IS FIND
NAUGUS. I
MEAN, THE
KING.

WE'VE BEEN
DELAYED THIS
LONG AND HE'S
STILL LATE! I
SAY WE GET
ON WITH IT.



BUT POLICY DICTATES WE HAVE A
MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL
AND THE KING...

I KNOW
THE POLICY!

...AND YOU
ALWAYS COMPLAIN
WHEN SONIC OR
SOMEBODY DOESN'T
FOLLOW THE--

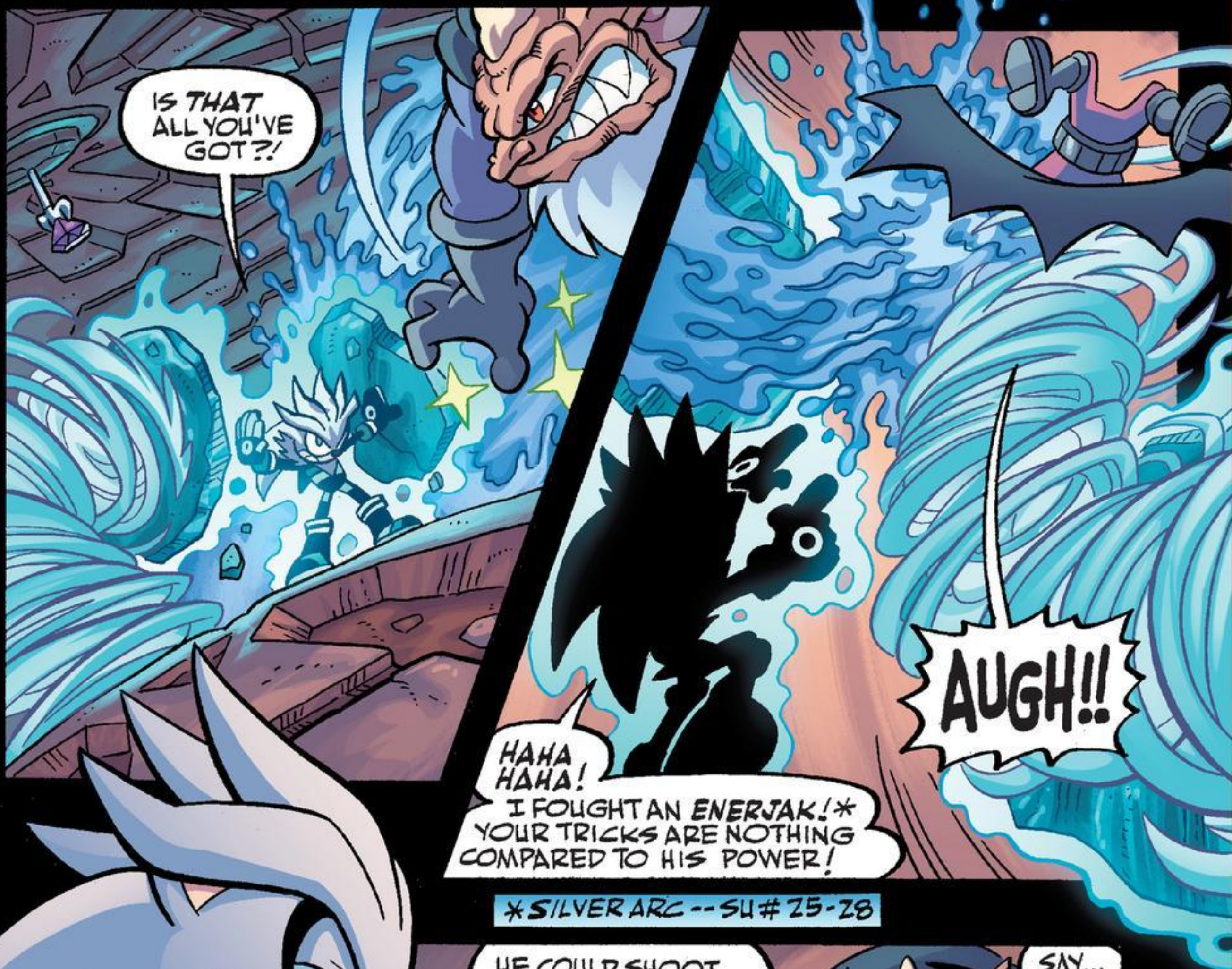
ALRIGHT!
ALRIGHT!
CAN WE
HAVE A
QUICK
VOTE TO
DECIDE...

BWOOOP!

DID WE JUST
BLOW A FUSE?

Oh, FOR
PITY'S
SAKE!!





IS THAT
ALL YOU'VE
GOT?!

AUGH!!

HAHA
HAHA!
I FOUGHT AN ENERJAK! *
YOUR TRICKS ARE NOTHING
COMPARED TO HIS POWER!

*SILVER ARC -- SU # 25-28



HE COULD SHOOT
VAPORIZING LASER
BEAMS AND MOVE
CONTINENTS.
WHAT DO YOU
GOT?

SAY...

HSSSS!
COULD HE
CONVERT THE
ELEMENTS WITH
A THOUGHT?

...COMBUST
THE VERY AIR
AROUND
YOU?

AHHH!!



THIS IS RIDICULOUS. WE'VE BEEN HAMMERING ON HIM AND HE'S STILL KEEPING US AT BAY! IT'S TAKING TOO LONG TO STOP HIM...

Hmm...

HEY, KING! I'M BREAKING RANKS AND MAKING AN EXECUTIVE DECISION.

I CAN STILL FINISH IT! I CAN STILL TAKE CONTROL!

No!

NO--

--YOU CAN'T!



RUMBLE



NO...ALL MY
CAREFUL
PLANNING...
VALE'S
BONES
WASTED...



APPRENTICE!
HELP ME!!

ARGH!!





NO...



NO ESCAPE!!

AHH!!



CLANG

Ohhh, NO. NO-NOPE-
NUH-UH! NO MORE
BEING BURIED ALIVE!
ACE, GRAB THE OTHERS!
I'M MAKING US AN EXIT,
AND IT'S GONNA GET
LOUD!

RIGHT BEHIND
YOU!

KRAASH

FREEDOM!
FRESH AIR!

MAKES ME WISH
I HAD TO
BREATHE, SO
I COULD
ENJOY IT!



SAVE THE CELEBRATING
FOR LATER. LET'S GET
BACK TO BASE
UNNOTICED
FIRST!

AYE-AYE,
CAP'N!

TRAITOR!
LEFT ME!
PUNISH...

NGH!
NO, SIR!
I WENT TO CHASE
DOWN THOSE ENEMY
AGENTS!

COUNCIL...
NO CONTROL...
WILL HAVE FELT
TREMORS!
MUST ATTACK
FIRST...

OR--
RRGH!
YOU PLAY FOR
SYMPATHY!

SAY YOU WERE IN-
VESTIGATING INSTA-
BILITY OF THE GROUND
AND WERE CAUGHT IN
A CAVE-IN. YOU SAVED
THE CITY FROM
COLLAPSE!

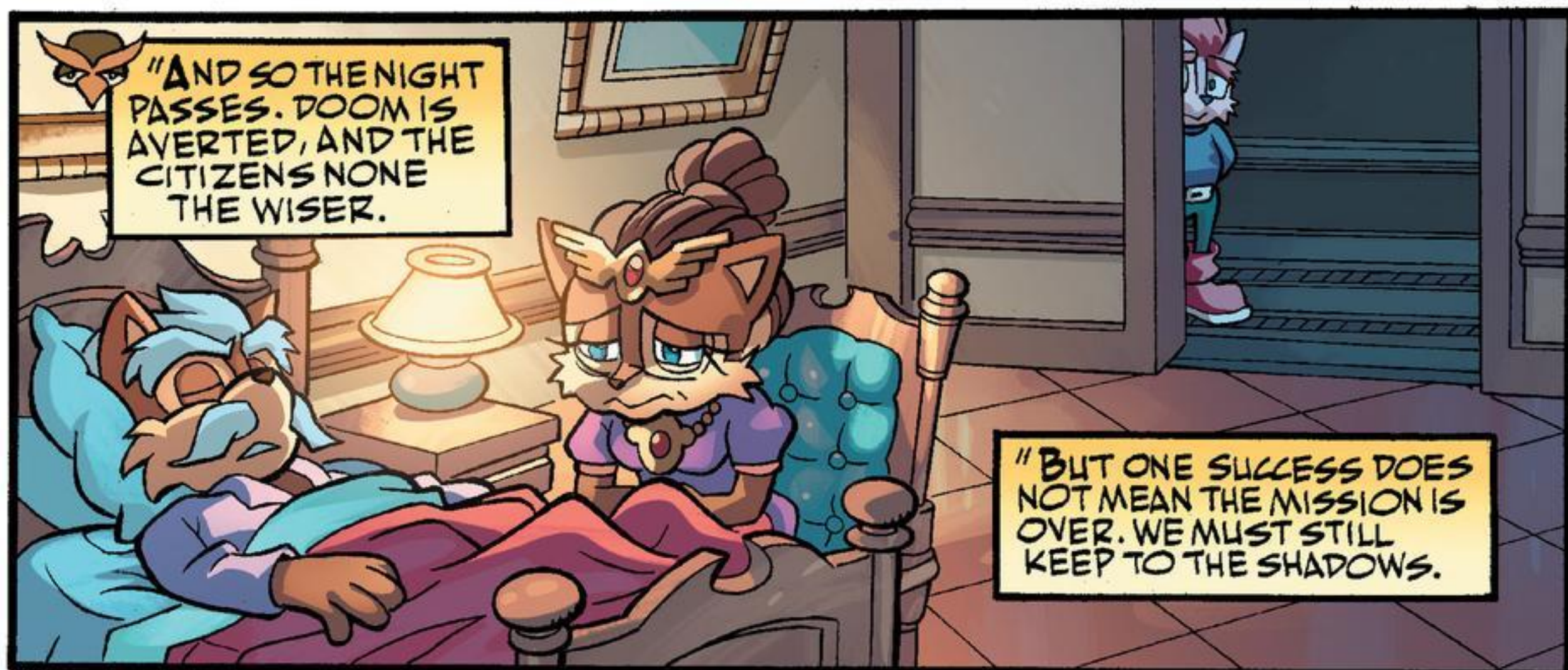
HRK!
GET
IT?

YES...YES, THAT WILL
DO. GOOD THINKING,
APPRENTICE.

OF COURSE.

I LIVE TO
SERVE.

FWASH





SECRET HQ

HARVEY
WHO
DIRECTOR
OF THE
SECRET
FREEDOM
FIGHTERS

THESE ARE
THE HARD
LESSONS TO
LEARN, BUT YOU AND
THE REST OF THE
TEAM PERFORMED
ADMIRABLY.

THANK
YOU,
SIR!

NOW THEN-- I DIDN'T
FORGET OUR BARGAIN.
I'VE BEEN INVESTIGAT-
ING THE POTENTIAL
TRAITOR AMONG THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
THAT YOU'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR.

GREAT!
HAVE YOU
FOUND
WHAT I
WAS MISS-
ING?



I HAVE COMPARED
THE ENTRIES OF
ANTOINE D'COOLETTE'S
DIARY-- BOTH FROM
THE PRESENT AND THE
ONE YOU RECOVERED
FROM YOUR TIME. I
TOOK INTO ACCOUNT
EVERYTHING YOU TOLD
ME AND APPLIED IT TO
ALL THE PROFILES I
HAVE ON FILE.



WAS IT
OBVIOUS?

NOT
IMMEDIATELY.
TIME HAS A WAY
OF TWISTING
THE FACTS,
OBSCURING
THE EVIDENCE.

BUT GIVEN THE
SUM OF IT ALL,
I'M CONFIDENT
I'VE DISCOVERED
YOUR "TRAITOR".

GREAT!
SO WHO
IS IT?!

SEE FOR
YOUR-
SELF.

OF THE ORIGINAL
FOUNDING FREE-
DOM FIGHTERS,
WE CAN
ELIMINATE
THESE
THREE.



A close-up comic panel featuring Sonic the Hedgehog. He has a shocked expression, with wide eyes and an open mouth. He is pointing his right index finger towards a document held by another character. The document is light blue and has several large red 'X' marks on it. In the bottom right corner, the head of another character, likely Dr. Eggman, is visible. He has a brown, bat-like head with a single horn and a long, thin mustache. He is looking towards Sonic with a serious expression. The background is a dark, metallic-looking surface with some blue structural elements.

WHAT?!

YOU'RE SURE?/
THIS IS THE
TRAITOR?!

YES.

AND I
CAN TELL
YOU
WHY.

SILVER'S HUNT FOR "THE TRAITOR" ENDS IN **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #247!** NEXT ISSUE COME ON BACK FOR A SPECIAL ONE-SHOT ADAPTATION STORY OF **SONIC ALL-STARS RACING TRANSFORMED!** THEN BE BACK AFTER THAT WHEN WE FIND THE CHAOTIX ARE HOT ON THE TRAIL OF MIGHTY AND RAY IN THE ALL NEW "**CHAOTIX QUEST!**" AND DON'T MISS OUT ON THE SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE AND THE SONIC GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!